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U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon News Release

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### National Park Service Searching for Overdue Hikers at Grand Canyon National Park

**Grand Canyon, AZ.**—On Sunday, May 25, 2008, Grand Canyon National Park's Emergency Dispatch Center received a report of overdue travelers, identified as Alan and Iris Humphrey of Salt Lake City. They had been expected in Prescott on Friday, May 24, after spending a week at the Grand Canyon, but had never arrived.

At the time of the report, an Attempt to Locate (ATL) had already been issued by the Salt Lake City police. Rangers checked hotel and campground registrations. When they found no record of the couple, an ATL was issued in the park and Arizona DPS was notified, resulting in a statewide ATL. Efforts to find the couple continued with searches of the backcountry permits issued in the park and of registration records at North Rim lodges and campgrounds. No record of the couple's visit could be found.

Late in the afternoon on Monday, May 26, rangers made contact with a friend of the couple who was familiar with their itinerary. Through this contact, they learned that the couple, experienced backpackers, had planned to backpack the Royal Arch route—a difficult, 45 mile loop in the far western portion of Grand Canyon National Park. At the same time, rangers learned that Iris had maintained her maiden name, Faraklas, and may have obtained a permit under that name. Searchers immediately rechecked backcountry permits for this second name and found a permit issued for May 17 – 23 in the name of Iris Faraklas for two people to travel the Royal Arch route. With knowledge of the couple's itinerary, at approximately 7:00 p.m., rangers were able to locate the couple's vehicle at the South Bass trailhead.

Early Tuesday morning, May 27, search and rescue rangers flew the southern portion of the Royal Arch route focusing along the rim and on areas known to be more technically challenging. During this initial hasty search, the couple was not found, but hikers along the trail were contacted and interviewed to determine if any hikers in the area had seen or made contact with the pair. After refueling, search and rescue rangers flew the remainder of the Royal Arch route, as well as other high probability areas, without locating the couple. Two teams of rescuers are now searching the Royal Arch route on foot.

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The pair have been identified as:

Alan P. Humphrey – 39 years old, 6’1” tall and 190 pounds with blonde hair and blue eyes.



Iris Faraklas – 35 years old, 5’10” tall and 150 pounds with brown hair and blue eyes.



Anyone with information about Alan Humphrey or Iris Faraklas should contact Grand Canyon’s Emergency Dispatch Center at 928-638-7805.

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